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# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMERICAN EMBASSY, GUATEMALA — 927 DESPATCH NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — April 21, 1953 DATE

REF : TUBDESP 912, April 16, 1953

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| For Dept. Use Only hm | ACTION ARA* RECD APR 28 | DEPT. OLI* I* EUR/X SY* IPS* OTHER | Enclosure to be forwarded when received in DC/R |

SUBJECT: EL IMPARCIAL CARRIES U.P. DESPATCH ON STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES ASSERTING THAT A CONSPIRACY HATCHED IN WASHINGTON THREATENS THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUATEMALA.

With reference to previous reports on the recent uprising against the Guatemalan Government at Salamá and as [illegible] of obliging journalism in Guatemala, I desire to report that El Imparcial of Saturday, April 18, 1953 carried a UP despatch with a New York dateline summarizing a manifesto issued by the Communist Party of the United States charging that "a conspiracy hatched in Washington threatens the independence of Guatemala"; that "its object is the overthrow of the legally-constituted democratic regime and its replacement by a Fascist Government which will take orders from the Department of State and the United Fruit Company"; and that the present seditious movement at Salamá "was instigated with funds of the United Fruit Company and the United States Embassy, as have been many other similar attempts during the past eight years". A copy of the article is enclosed.

According to the UP despatch, the manifesto asserted that:

> "An armed attack on Guatemala is in process, organized by the same Wall Street interests which on other occasions have organized military expeditions against Mexico and Nicaragua, have crushed the struggles for independence of Puerto Rica and Santo Domingo, and today are directing the barbarous war of aggression in Korea. The conspiracy against Guatemala is intended to overthrow the legally-constituted democratic regime of the country and to replace it by a Fascist Government which will take orders from the Department of State and the United Fruit Company".

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"Spruille Braden, a big businessman and former Assistant Secretary of State, (the manifesto continues) openly made known the designs of Wall Street when he stated in his speech on March 12 that Guatemala was an advance base of international Communism and that suppression of Communism, even by force, by one or more of the other republics, would not constitute intervention in the internal affairs of Guatemala. The fact that this statement by an ex-official of the Truman Administration (the manifesto reportedly claims) has not been repudiated by the Eisenhower Administration shows that they are 'coyotes of the same kidney'. Under the mask of a campaign against Communism, a crusade with the sanction of Washington is being directed against the program of agrarian reform which is giving land for cultivation to thousands of farmers who are dying of hunger; against the liberties which the people have won by persistent effort; against the strong labor movement; and against the Government which refuses to bow before the Department of State and defends its national independence".

Why the independent El Imparcial, which is friendly to the United States and critical of the Arbenz Government and of its tolerance for Communism, has carried this despatch is a matter of speculation. The simplest answer may be that it desired to give coverage to whatever could be classed as news. In carrying the article it may also have had in mind the desirability of disarming the charges of the leftist and pro-Government press which is fond of branding it as a tool of foreign interests and the large U. S. companies operating in Guatemala. But more probably, El Imparcial's motive was, under an apparent guise of innocence, to show its readers the circles the local regime must rely on for support for its claims that a foreign conspiracy lies behind the active opposition to it within the country.

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld

Enclosure:

1/ Clipping from El Imparcial, April 18, 1953.

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